

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

25X1A

COUNTRY Free Territory of Trieste  
SUBJECT Pro-Cominform (Vidali) Communist Party Activity in March

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. During the month of March 1951 the pro-Cominform Communist Party in Trieste concentrated on the following problems in the priority indicated:
  - a. Publicity to the USSR and its Foreign Policy.\*
  - b. Peace Campaign
  - c. Free Territory of Trieste Political Problem.
  - d. The Forthcoming Administrative Elections.
  - e. The Struggle Against Titoism.
  - f. Publicity to Wartime Partisan Fighting.
  - g. Congress of Communist Youth.
  - h. Workers' Strike in Barcelona.
2. Publicity to the USSR and its foreign policy. During the month, approximately half of the Party's activity was dedicated especially to popularizing the USSR and its foreign policy.
  - a. The Tomasi Culture Club organized numerous public discussions in the evening with the theme: "We Want to Know the Soviet Union." The talks served as a medium to propagandize cultural, economic and political developments in the USSR.
  - b. Many cells continue to give political courses based on the book: Stalin Courses in Brief: On the Problems of Peace and War. These courses are given under the guidance of Central Committee members and consist mainly of propaganda in favor of the Bolshevik Party and the USSR.
  - c. On 28 March the Party presented a series of Soviet newsreels of scientific and popular interest. Besides the pictures, there were short propaganda lectures.\*\*
  - d. The Central Committee held a public debate with the Slovene Democratic Union on the subject: "Working conditions in Eastern and Western Countries."

CLASSIFICATION

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104 Review Date: 2005

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- e. The local press regularly printed detailed reports, with photographs, on cultural and economic progress in the Soviet Union, the high standard of living there, Soviet price controls, et cetera. At the same time, the leaders of mass organizations gave wide publicity to life in the Soviet Union at Party meetings.
3. Peace Campaign: As in the month of February, special attention was given to the peace problem. Multiple propaganda means were developed to prepare the terrain for the creation of the greatest possible number of Peace Committees.
- a. Considerable discussion at cell meetings was dedicated to Palmiro Togliatti's statement to the effect that he would retire from the opposition if the Italian Government would quit the Atlantic Pact. It was declared, furthermore, that the Italian Communist Party fights for peace and is concerned only with Italian interests.
  - b. Communist Senator Umberto Terracini, representing the World Peace Committee, gave public talks in Muggia and Trieste at special meetings organized by the Trieste Peace Committee. Partisans of Peace delegates from Venice and Carinthia were present. Terracini declared that all progressive democratic forces in the world, with the Soviet Union at the helm, wanted peace whereas America, wanting war, had to be opposed by the rest of the world. The speeches were particularly directed against the so-called Bethouart Plan, which calls for the retention of Trieste as a strategic base for Atlantic Pact countries.
  - c. The celebrations on 1 May will be dedicated to peace and preparations are on a broader scale than last year.\*\*\*
  - d. It is constantly repeated at Party meetings that the American imperialists are preparing war, that the rearmament of Germany may lead to World War III and that the Soviet Union struggles untiringly for peace.
4. Free Territory of Trieste Political Problem: The problem presented by the Free Territory was treated widely in the Communist press, which published the most varied and alarming articles. The same objectives have been retained: enforcement of the Peace Treaty; temporary UN control; removal of Anglo-American and Yugoslav troops; merger of the two Zones with the nomination of a governor; and a declaration that Trieste be made an open city.
5. Forthcoming Administrative Elections: Central Committee leaders fear that the date of the elections will be held sooner than the announced official date, which will find the Party unprepared.
6. Communist commune counselors were instructed to begin a publicity campaign in Zone A by explaining what the Party has accomplished in the Council as compared to the other parties. The counselors are obliged to report to Party headquarters each day in order to brief Party members on municipal questions of interest.
7. Those in charge of determining what the Party's platform will be in the campaign, including Giuseppe Pogassi, Vittorio Vidali and Angelo Blazina, have issued the following directives to date:
- a. Campaign speeches are to be initiated immediately in public places and homes because the press cannot cover all subjects thoroughly.
  - b. The Party must receive more votes in these elections than it did in 1949. To increase the number of votes, the Party must become - through cell action - more of a mass movement. Inactive elements and fellow-travelers should be accepted in the fold. When an individual joins the ranks, it is a certainty that he will cast his vote for the Party.
  - c. The 1 May manifestations should be on a broader scale than ever before because they will influence the election campaigns and determine, to some extent, the results of the elections.

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- d. Unite will publish an entire page on the Trieste elections, and it should be read by all.
- e. The Central Committee will organize shortly condensed courses for Agit-prop leaders from cells on up. The courses also will be open to competent Party activists. It will be the duty of those who finish the courses to develop the election campaign in the cells and among the masses.
- f. The elections are important not only from an administrative but also from a political point of view. The struggle is rather difficult because everyone is against the Party, except for the Italian Socialist Party. A special danger to Communist interests arises from the "Independentists", who are financed by Tito and the Allies.
8. The Struggle against Titoism: In all sectors this struggle has been pursued without respite. The brochure on the subject, prepared by Karel Siskovic-Mitko, is still being distributed.\*\*\*\* Photographs of pro-Cominform Yugoslav General Arso Jevanovic, who was assassinated, have been placed in all cell headquarters.
9. It is repeated at each Party meeting that Yugoslavia is preparing for war by order of the American imperialists, and each day the danger of a Yugoslav-provoked war in the Balkans increases.
10. An uninterrupted series of articles has appeared in the local pro-Cominform press on political terrorization in Yugoslavia, the misery of the people, the plight of the workers, the resistance of the peasants and Yugoslavia's passage into the imperialist camp. In Slovene circles, greater distribution is being made of newspapers, published by Yugoslav emigrants in Prague, Moscow, Bucharest and Sofia, which are brought into Yugoslavia clandestinely.
11. Publicity to Wartime Partisan Fighting: Preparations are under way to erect a monument in Domio, Zone A, to partisans from that village or the vicinity who fell either in Trieste or Yugoslavia. The monument will consist of a stone column with a red star crown.
12. On 8-10 April a meeting will be held of all former partisans and political commissars of the last war.
13. Congress of Communist Youth: It was held on 4 March and its theme was the struggle for peace, the glorification of the Soviet Union and the assault of Anglo-American imperialists as the instigators of a new world war. During the Congress, a new Central Committee was elected.
14. Workers' Strike in Barcelona: The Party gave very wide publicity to the strike which was the subject of discussion at many meetings. From the tone of the speeches and the directives issued, it was clear that the overall objective was to rekindle the combative spirit of Communists in Trieste by pointing out the combativeness of the Spanish "Communists" despite the terror of the Fascist police state. Vittorio Vidali held two conferences for all Party members on the subject: "Struggle of the Spanish people against Franco."

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